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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3733

Appln. No: 10/659,297

Examiner: Pedro PHILOGENE

Filed: September 11, 2003

Confirmation No.: 3563

For: ROD CONNECTOR

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.112

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated March 3, 2006, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on June 5, 2006 (June 3, 2006 being a Saturday), and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire on July 3, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this Response.